

Point Three



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Point Three

Editor : Frank Rice MA MA MBIM
Designer : Sybil A Chick LSIAD

Letters and articles are welcomed and should be addressed to the Toc H Editorial Office, 1 Forest Close, Wendover, Bucks HP22 6BT (Telephone: 0296 623911).

Opinions expressed (including the editorial) are those of the individual contributors and not necessarily those of the Toc H Movement.

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The cover picture shows two of the volunteers working on Hull's North Yorkshire Moors Railway Project.

Photo: Tony Reade



Toc H seeks to create friendship and understanding among people of all backgrounds and beliefs. Local group activities range from holidays for the handicapped and children's playschemes to arts festivals and even bird-watching. Toc H is short for Talbot House: the soldiers' club in Belgium founded by the Reverend 'Tubby' Clayton in 1915. Today Toc H provides opportunities for people to test the relevance of practical Christianity and we welcome anyone who would like to give us a try.

Members accept a four-fold commitment:

1. To build friendships across the barriers that divide man from man.
2. To give personal service.
3. To find their own convictions while always being willing to listen to the views of others.
4. To work for the building of that better world which has been called the Kingdom of God.

This magazine, which acts as a forum for ideas about Toc H and about the world in which we live, takes its title from the third of these Four Points – to think fairly.

From the Editor

'Always make your explanations as simple as possible – but no simpler.'

Albert Einstein

One hundred years ago (on 14 March 1879), a very remarkable man was born: the Swiss-German-American mathematical physicist, Albert Einstein. Like many great men, he showed no special promise in his youth. Indeed, his first academic appointment came only after the world wide acclaim that followed the publication of his major original work. Yet, now that his life's work can be seen in perspective, now that much of it has been tested experimentally, we must rank him with Galileo and Newton among the very greatest intuitive scientists of history – those few who have changed our whole thinking about the universe in which we live.

Einstein was born in Wurttemberg of Jewish parents – his father a minor industrialist. The family moved around a good deal during Albert's boyhood and by about 1900 they were settled in Switzerland – Albert became a naturalised Swiss citizen in 1901. His first startling paper hit the scientific world while he was working as a clerk in the Swiss Patent Office (1902 to 1905). This paper set out his special theory of relativity and was followed in 1916 by his general theory of relativity. Steadily, he had overcome all the mathematical difficulties of his theory that space and time are not absolute but relative to the observer. I deeply regret that I lack the mathematical knowledge to follow these theories in detail but, even if I thought I understood them, I would not dare to try to propound them here! It was clear, though, as soon as they appeared, that physics would never be the same again, for his findings could not be reconciled with Newton's mechanics which had governed the thinking of physicists for some 250 years. However practically useful Newton's theory of dynamics may remain, for ultimate physical concepts it has given way to Einstein's. And Einstein made these great discoveries without a laboratory full of expensive equipment or teams of trained assistants – or even a computer link! His only tools were his brains and a fountain pen. For the past 70 years, teams of physicists have been testing his theories – some of them in a determined effort to topple them. So far, all experiments have confirmed Einstein's reasoning. That reasoning has substantially affected the work of all later mathematicians and physicists.

Albert Einstein's early original papers gained him not only fame but also his first teaching and research post – in Zurich. This was followed by a series of academic appointments until in 1914 he was made Director of the Kaiser Wilhelm Institute in Berlin. When Hitler came to power in 1933, Einstein was deprived of his post (as a Jew), left Germany and renounced his German citizenship. For some years, he worked and taught in English and American universities. In 1939, in a famous letter to President Roosevelt, he warned that an atomic bomb was very near and would probably be produced first by Germany. In 1940, he became an American citizen. He devoted the rest of his scientific life (he died in 1955) to increasingly complex calculations aimed at bringing the whole range of physical phenomena under one set of fixed laws.

Absorbed as he was in abstract scientific work, Albert Einstein never forgot the importance of men. In 1921 he gained a Nobel Prize and in the 1930s wrote a series of influential general works – 'About Zionism', 'Why War?' and 'My Philosophy'. From 1945, he argued powerfully for international control of atomic armament and in the 1950s he fought relentlessly against Senator McCarthy, whose 'Un-American Activities Committee' was pillorying so many of his friends and colleagues.

Nor did this astonishing thinker forget man's Maker – 'The Old One', as he called him. In an interesting essay on knowledge, Christopher Booker pointed out recently that Einstein was always convinced that one day man would understand the fixed laws which make our universe work; he believed that God had so planned it that no part of it worked by chance. Hence, he would argue, says Booker, that any theory of the universe which failed to explain its whole operation in clearly demonstrable terms of cause and effect was necessarily an incomplete or inadequate theory. In his prime, he stood out against what was then the fashionable scientific view that there were some elements in matter which operated by chance, so that we should never be able fully to understand them or to submit them to laws. This present lack of understanding, Einstein argued, was simply due to the primitive, undeveloped state of our knowledge of the universal physical laws involved. 'God', he said, 'does not play dice with the Universe'.

Follow that!

What's happening in PRESTATYN?

Groups of volunteers from the Welsh and Manchester ends of the N Wales and NW Region are engaged in a continuing project at Prestatyn – the clearing, painting and maintenance of the site of the Salford Children's Holiday Camp there.

Huw Gibbs and Alan Daniels planned these project weekends which were inspired by a Prestatyn Branch member. The camp is an independent registered charity but much of the responsibility for running it has been accepted by the Salford Education Department who welcomed our offer of help.

So far, joint teams (Manchester Projects Support Group – which includes Mark 4 residents – and young folk from N Wales) have spent two very busy sessions working there through two of the year's coldest weekends. During the second of them, burst pipes forced the volunteers to take shelter in the Rhyl Centre.

The volunteers plan to visit the camp throughout the projects season so that they can keep in touch afterwards with the children and to carry on their weekend work programme next winter.

Special thanks to the Salford Education

Department, the Prestatyn Camp warden and handyman and the Rhyl members who came to the rescue and provided accommodation in their centre at very short notice.

Quote from a girl volunteer: *I didn't know that I could work so hard, be so cold and yet be so happy, all at the same time!*

Quote from a Cypriot student volunteer who had just been told that projects offer people something outside their normal experience: *'Working on a freezing beach in N Wales has certainly done that for me!'*



In Brief...

● Tom Griffiths (Rhyl, N Wales) writes to tell us that, over the past six months, Rhyl North Men's Branch has been working successfully to involve more young people in Toc H activities. On a fixed day in each month, they have mounted special guest nights — talk on Toc H, hot-pot supper, slide programmes illustrating the work of the Rhyl Centre. These have led to a series of beetle drives, 'Poems and Pints' and a quiz evening run by the youngsters. The programme is already paying off. The young people have helped prepare the Rhyl Centre to receive its summer guests and have joined in fund raising exercises. Now, a group of them plan to take Rhyl children for a summer holiday in Criccieth. Carry on Rhyl North!

● Conwy (N Wales) District raised more than £64 for Lepira at a recent function. At a coffee evening in Colwyn Bay, John Edwards BEM of Lepira (Wales office) gave an illustrated talk on Lepira's work. The event was supported by Conwy, Llandudno, Deganwy, Mochdre and Colwyn Bay branches, each one providing a raffle prize.

● Ted Curry reports that Northants District has again run an inter-branch competition during the winter months despite threats to the time-table caused by the wretched weather. This year it went under the name of 'Fancy That' and was a modified form of a TV game

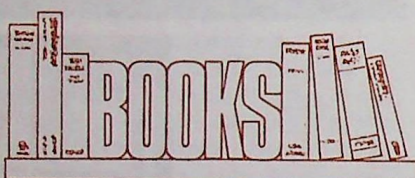
('Winner Takes All'), adapted and organised by Arthur Sheppard of Wellingborough. The final tie was between Higham Ferrers Ladies and Rushden Men and was staged very successfully (including the catering) in Northampton by the two branches in the town. About 100 members and friends were present. Rushden Men were the winners and both groups of finalists were presented with a trophy by Mavis Sharpe, wife of the District Chairman. The trophies will be retained until required next year.

● Belfairs (Essex) Women's Branch recently met with friends in Highlands Methodist Church Hall to celebrate the branch's 25th birthday. Among the guests on this occasion were the drivers of the branch's mini-bus. A most enjoyable evening was rounded off with an entertainment mounted by friends of the branch.

● After 25 years of working side by side, Bognor Regis Men's Branch (aged 41) and Bognor Regis Women's Branch (aged 25) have decided to 'go joint'. The first function of the new joint branch was a Dedication Service led by Padre Ken Oliver at Climping Parish Church. The very strong attendance at this Service reflected the high morale of the strengthened and rejuvenated branch. We all send our best wishes for a bright and active future.

● Joan Bell (Green Street Green, Kent Branch) has asked us to pass on congratulations to Elsie Threlfall and Jo Williams, both of Blackpool Branch. On 5 June, Elsie and Jo celebrated 50 years of membership: during all that time, they have held office in Toc H almost without interruption. When Joan Bell joined Toc H in 1941, Elsie was her sponsor. All of us here join Joan in sending our congratulations and best wishes.

● I have just been reading a light hearted account (by volunteer Ann Dewhurst) of the Toc H Fylde Youth Action Group's first ever project — outdoor work at the National Children's Home, Lytham St Anne's. On the face of it, this is just a happy report of a very typical project but NW Regional staff member Alan Daniels draws attention to some special features. For example, most of the planning and operation were carried out by the volunteers themselves with only minimal DEC and staff supervision. Then, prominent local youth leaders described the Toc H volunteers as 'the best ambassadors of the youth service they had seen for years'. Reaction at the Children's Home was similar and they have asked for a follow up weekend. This new group has also (with Manchester) planned and carried through a spring holiday for 25 local children at Port Penrhyn — including the raising of some £400 to meet the cost. Well done, Fylde!



Adolescence

Dr Odum's book was first published in 1957 but she produced an amended and updated edition in 1978. From her wide experience in both medicine and psychiatry, she has produced a very comprehensive picture of adolescence in a straightforward, yet sensitive way.

The adolescent is seen in a variety of contexts and relationships, beginning with the pre-adolescent, accepting, sincere, busy, outgoing, 10 year old. Health and physical changes with the onset of puberty are described as are emotional changes and the awakening of self awareness. The young person is seen in

the context of his home, his school, his friends, his job and the community in general, and social, sexual and spiritual problems are outlined in a sensible but sympathetic way.

The book is full of practical help and advice with constant reference to sources of help available. Dr Odum also reminds the reader, more than once, of his own adolescence and the fact that so called 'adolescent behaviour' reappears in times of stress throughout our lives.

As a parent and teacher of young people in the 11 to 18 year age group, I would thoroughly recommend this book to all who work, deal with or have an interest in adolescents. It is easy to read, simple, direct and refreshingly free from 'jargon' of 'experts', and could serve perhaps to reassure bewildered parents. In fact, older adolescents might well find this book helpful to them in understanding themselves.

Anne Dudman

'Adolescence', by Doris Odum, is published by Wayland Publishers Ltd at £4.95.

Health in Middle Age

by Dr Michael Green

This book is wrongly titled, to my mind. Every chapter describes one of the diseases, physical, mental or emotional, that we may be prone to, and through which we have to survive, to reach the 'Good Health and Retirement' of the author's final ten pages.

But if you are feeling up to it, and your nerves are in good shape, Dr Green tells you plainly what the risks are, and many of the symptoms to look out for, if you are to make it to your pension.

BK

Published by Wayland Press at £4.95.

say 'THANK YOU!'

FESTIVAL 1980 will be a celebration at which we can all say 'thank you' for the good things that have happened to us in recent years; But we shall be looking forward too. Festival 1980 isn't a target, but a milestone in our progress.

LOCAL ACTIVITIES can follow this theme from now on. Why not start planning how you can thank those people and organisations who have helped you in your work? It could be catching — some may seize the chance to thank Toc H for what it has done!

HOW TO DO IT. Parties, rallies, publicity, concerts, gifts, guest nights, fetes, special events — or some bright idea of your own.

GET TOGETHER with other branches and involve your staff member, the District and perhaps the Region — they're all there to help. In 1980, let's say goodbye to the wasteful 'us and them' habit.

WE'VE STARTED! Toc H will say 'thank you' with a panel in the Blackpool illuminations; the North Eastern Region (it was all their idea!) are planning District celebrations to thank their friends; and our designers are producing a 'thank you' motif for stickers, posters, notepaper, envelopes, press releases etc. Special posters and stickers will be available later in the year.

OFF WE GO! Why not have a special branch meeting to see what *you* can come up with? Make it a brainstorming session: generate ideas as fast as you can, then pick out the good ones. Get together with your staff and other branches who've done the same, select the best ideas and get going — together.

TELL HQ. The Editorial and Publicity Offices are anxious to tell everyone how Toc H is taking off — so tell us — *in advance* — what you're doing and we'll do our best for you.

ON THE MOVE. We don't intend to stop once the Festival's over. All this action will have given us quite a bit of impetus and when we're going places, there's only one way to look — forwards!

say 'THANK YOU!'

From the Director

Ken Prideaux-Brune



'We believe in the inherent goodness of man. We enjoy man for himself. We regard our living together not as an unfortunate mishap warranting endless competition among us but a deliberate act of God to make us a community of brothers and sisters.' That could have been written, though it wasn't, by Peter Monie or Barclay Baron. In fact it's Steve Biko, the most articulate of the martyrs of the Black Consciousness movement in South Africa, writing about African culture. (*I write what I Like*, a selection of the writings of the Steve Biko, Bowerdean Press £4.95). As he outlines the kind of contribution which he believes the African can make to a new

and more human society in South Africa he seems to echo the kind of contribution that we believe Toc H can make here in Britain.

'Society needs compassion more than competition' is the way we put it a few years back. Whichever way you put it it is a challenge to those who believe that man needs the stimulus of competition if he is to develop his talents to the full. That seems to me to be a somewhat cynical view of human nature. The stimulus for the artist is not competition but the joy of creation. The stimulus for the climber is not competition but the joy of physical achievement. Those who argue for the value of competition naturally stress its value to the winners but they ignore the harm that can be done to the development of the losers.

To question the value of competition is in no way to deny the importance of every individual having the opportunity to develop his powers to their fullest extent. I am simply arguing that this development takes place more effectively when he co-operates with others, rather than when he competes with them. We grow as people through our relationships with others. We need more opportunities for real, deep friendships, not more opportunities for competition. The important concept to cling on to is brotherhood. Real brotherhood involves emulating the achievements of others, but it also involves rejoicing over the achievements of others. It has no more use for grey uniformity than it has for 'endless competition'.

Elsewhere in the article Steve Biko writes: *'We reject the power-based society*

of the Westerner that seems to be ever concerned with perfecting their technological know-how while losing out on their spiritual dimension'. The desire to have power over others is to reject absolutely the concept of brotherhood. Brotherhood is based on love, which is at the heart of the spiritual dimension of life. Love is to accept others with all their faults, without condemnation, and all their talents without envy. It is to rejoice in the differences between human beings through which our lives are enriched. The concept of brotherhood is the basis of a Christian view of society — and it is a radical, even subversive, concept.

* * *

This month I felt I wanted to share some thoughts arising out of my reading, rather than out of my travels. I must, however, make brief mention of the official opening of the Toc H Community Centre at Leigh in Lancashire. This attractive building has been erected entirely by voluntary labour (work which is featured in our Tape/Slide programme) and is a remarkable example of what can be achieved by a small group of people if they have sufficient faith, courage and determination. The efforts of Leigh Branch were crowned by a happy and informal opening ceremony on a hot sunny Sunday in May. The official opening of the Centre, though in one sense a culmination of 12 years of hard work, is in reality, of course, only a beginning. The real work of community building lies ahead, but already the centre is being well-used by a wide variety of local organisations.



Introducing 'IMPACT'

by Annette Richings



'Impact' is the new Youth Action Group in Leicester which since January I have been co-ordinating under a STEP scheme. . . . Some 30 young people, aged between 12 and 30, have been involved — a keen and lively bunch of youngsters of all different shapes, sizes and colours.

Well, what have we been doing to make an impact? We started off with a jumble sale which provided us with nearly £50 cash, and since then we have braved the elements to help clear up a riverside walk in Leicester, joined in with the local PHAB club, entertained an old people's home (room for improvement when it comes to 'Edelweiss', but 'Daisy, Daisy' is

promising!) and have done some gardening.

Then in mid-March, 11 volunteers took children from one parent families to Coston Lodge — an old converted farmhouse repped out to youth groups and an ideal place to take kids. We triumphed over faulty electrical circuits, endless burst pipes, and other unmentionable disadvantages so that we could all splash about in our wellies in the mud, cheat on treasure hunts, and unravel huge pass-the-parcels to win highly sought after cream eggs. I've never eaten so much swede and potato in my life, but we only had to use the Alka Seltzer twice. The kids at the

end declared that they wanted to stay much longer, but I think us older, geriatric ones were only fit for a hot bath and a good sleep. . . .

IMPACT, then, is thriving. Plans for the future include more environment improving work, help with single parent families, visiting the elderly, gardening, fund raising. But above all, it is important to be sensitive to the interests and capabilities of the volunteers, and plan for them. Certainly Leicester is an excellent situation for the formation of a young people's action group — the longer I investigate opportunities for involvement, the more openings I find. . . .



Wem (Salop) Joint Branch recently organised a 'Know Your Town' Exhibition designed to encourage interest in local organisations. Branch Chairman Alec Turner (R in picture) said: 'It is highly successful as I thought it would be. Everyone has worked hard at something that has never been done before'. Over 20 organisations filled the market hall and adjoining room with their exhibitions. This very lively branch plans to make 'Know Your Town' an annual event.

In April, St John's (Women's) Branch, Tunbridge Wells raised almost £350 by running a marathon sponsored Beetle Drive. Members and friends started to play in earnest at 9.30 am and, with one short refreshment break, continued to 5.30 pm! The whole day was a splendid combined effort with stalls selling home made goods and other gift items and a series of games and competitions for those attending. The large sum raised is to be shared between the Multiple Sclerosis Society and the Maidstone and District Kidney Machine Fund.



Alison House

From 1 June, Alison House has been under new management with Alan and Irene Robson as Host and Hostess.



Alan, a Northumbrian, met Irene, a Londoner, in 1945 whilst they were

serving in Berlin. After their tour of duty they returned to England and settled in the Midlands where Alan was able to follow his career in engineering. He very soon renewed his association with Toc H and became a member of Coventry Branch in 1950. He was also a founder member of Radford Branch and during his Toc H career has held every executive position at branch level and has served as Warwickshire District Pilot and District Chairman. He is also an active member of the local Methodist Church. In addition to raising their three children and assisting Alan in his Toc H activities, Irene is an active member of the Mothers' Union and spends her spare time caring for the old folk in their village.

They are eagerly looking forward to the challenge of their new life at Alison House and hope with God's help to preserve a spirit of true Toc H fellowship and to seek to create an environment which will enrich the quality of life of all those who come to share the tranquillity of this lovely old house.

We all offer a warm welcome to Alan and Irene.

Welcome

The following branches elected new members during May:

- 8 - Gemini (Warrington) Group (j)
- 6 - Cockerton (Darlington) Group (j)
- 4 - Ashby-de-la-Zouch (w), Dalton-in-Furness (j)
- 3 - Shirley & Solihull (w)
- 2 - Barrow-on-Humber (j), Edmonton (j), Guisborough (j), Hartley Wintney (w), Saltburn (j)
- 1 - Accrington (j), Bideford (w), Cheltenham (m), Cirencester (m), Cromwell District, Deal & Walmer (j), Heathfield (m), Leigh (j), Llandrindod Wells (j), Looe (m), Margate (m), Mark VII (j), Marlow (j), Melton Mowbray (m), Mid Cotswold District, Netherton (m), Newbury (w), Oulton Broad (w), St Albans (w), Scunthorpe (j), Southill (w), Stourport (m), Tower Hill (j), Welland Forest District, West Worthing (w), Worthing (m)

A warm welcome to 61 new members

new solutions to old problems

by Carol Vielba

Carol Vielba is a research fellow at the Institute of Local Government Studies at the University of Birmingham. She lives in London and is currently engaged on research into urban government. Carol wrote the first article in this series ('Inner Cities First' – October 1978').



Many of the inner areas surrounding the centres of our cities suffer, in a marked way and to an unacceptable extent from economic decline, physical decay and adverse social conditions . . . The inner parts of our cities ought not to be left to decay. It would mean leaving large numbers of people to face a future of declining job opportunities, a squalid environment and declining public services. But without effective action, that would be the future for those who live in inner areas, bringing with it mounting bitterness and an increasing sense of alienation.

(1977 White Paper: Policy for the Inner Cities)

The problems

Over the past decade, poverty and disadvantage have been knocking loudly on the doors of many homes, particularly in the old inner neighbourhoods of our cities. Of course, this is not the poverty of disease, destitution and starvation that shatters the walls of homes in Africa and Asia. Yet amidst our general plenty, despite a welfare state now more than a quarter of a century old, material need, bad housing, educational failure, unemployment, crime and lack of opportunity stunt the hopes, lives and ambitions of too many modern Britons. Such deprivation seems anachronistic:

many do not believe that it really exists. Yet, if we have eyes to see it, deprivation exists on a quite alarming scale in our most renowned cities and is perhaps one of the most constant features of industrial societies of our time.

Labour and Conservative governments alike have introduced special programmes designed to tackle inner city problems. Since 1968 there have been no less than 12 major government initiatives in this field, not to mention the countless voluntary and community projects which have taken place. Without them matters might have been much worse; at best, though, their net effect has been that of a holding operation. We may well ask whether present strategies and policies have any better chance of success? Only time will provide a definite answer: on the one hand, however, while they contain some new and important innovations they do, on the other, enshrine some of the fundamental weaknesses of former inner city programmes.

The failure of the State

Today the state is not only the major provider of community services – education, health, public transport, welfare benefits, rented housing and social services – but also a major

employer and the body which, if it so chooses, can regulate every other aspect of social and economic life. It follows, therefore, that central and local government can together be held very largely responsible for the parlous conditions in our inner cities by their failure to regulate, in particular the economy, and their failure to match growing needs with appropriate services.

The uncertain records of governments, central and local, have caused some to suggest that the state has no part to play in reviving the flagging fortunes of the inner city. One school of thought recommends the removal of all state controls on the operation of the free market in the inner city so that it may become a seedbed for entrepreneurial development. This idea holds out the prospect of investment and jobs, which the inner city so badly needs. It also holds out the prospect of profits made at the expense of poorly paid workers suffering bad working conditions and lack of job security. Historically an unchecked market economy has never operated to the benefit of the weakest and poorest in society. Why therefore should we expect it to solve the problems of our blighted areas without exacting a price somewhere?

Others recommend self help. Some claim that it is not opportunities which are lacking in the inner city but will power. If people helped themselves they could in fact get jobs, improve their housing and live in a better place. Others admit that opportunities for a conventional prosperous life are scarce in the inner city, but suggest that those who live there might create some sort of alternative society that was equally satisfying. Neither solution is particularly just. Alternative ways of living are surely to be encouraged, providing, however, that citizens are given a choice whether or not they participate in them. Citizens should be responsible for their own lives, but why should those unfortunate enough to be born or housed in the declining neighbourhoods of our cities have to labour twice as hard for their rewards as others?

Governments, both central and local,



Photo: Newcastle Chronicle & Journal Ltd



cannot be allowed to dodge their responsibility for ensuring that all citizens receive the social and economic opportunities to which they are entitled. However while only the state may be able to guarantee a just solution to the problem of the inner city, the state by itself cannot actually effect that solution. A good and lasting solution depends on harnessing the energies of the people, of utilising their instincts for self help and entrepreneurship, and making these work for a common good. It is the inability of governments to employ the energies of the people constructively which has helped to condemn past efforts at solving urban problems, and demands new approaches to social and economic policy in Britain.

Requirements for success

In order to test the potential of present inner city strategies and pinpoint the areas where new initiatives are required, it is useful to consider the basic requirements which any such problem solving strategy must fulfil for success:

- * Those involved in the strategy must be fully committed to its aims and methods;
- * the nature of the problems being tackled must be clearly identified and their cause well understood;
- * changes must be made to existing public policies and new policies initiated;
- * sufficient resources must be made available to tackle the problems and they must be allocated according to need;
- * changes implied by the strategy must be fully implemented by all concerned in the spirit in which they were originally made;
- * the progress of the strategy must be reviewed regularly and its effectiveness tested;
- * the work of different agencies, departments and groups involved in the strategy must be properly co-ordinated;
- * those who are directly affected by the strategy must be involved in its decision making and regulation.

Some of these requirements can be met fully only by state action; others, however, cannot easily be met by modern

governments. The state, therefore, cannot carry out a successful strategy against inner city problems by itself, it must act in partnership with others better placed to meet some of these basic requirements.

The limits of State action

Governments have a unique and central role to play in helping the inner city. Only the state can make the necessary changes in public policy; only the state can mobilise sufficient resources to begin to tackle the problems of needy areas; and only the state can provide the legal and institutional framework for ensuring that the actions of others contribute constructively to the revitalisation of the inner city.

None of these processes can proceed, however, without the commitment of politicians and administrators alike. At present inner city policies do not command the full commitment of either group. Two years ago, unrest and extremist politics, particularly the activities of the National Front, gave the present inner city initiative a clear political purpose. The needs of the inner city must now, however, be balanced carefully against the electoral significance of other groups and areas by MPs, councillors, parties and governments. Civil servants, of all types, are vital to the execution of social and economic policy. However as employees of the state they are concerned with other matters: radical changes in policy may have important consequences for careers and jobs, they may clash with professional or union dogma, or they may simply imply unacceptable upheavals in established ways of working.

In fact while promoting inner city policies with one breath, governments have been pursuing other policies likely completely to frustrate the efforts of the former. Poor economic performance nationally, high levels of unemployment and low levels of production and investment have hit hardest the marginal areas of the economy, such as inner city neighbourhoods. At the same time, economic management by public expenditure cuts has affected most drastically those groups and areas, such



Photos: Scott Shaw

as the inner city, most dependent on state services, and has hardened the attitude of public employees to change.

There is another quite different limitation on the effectiveness of state action. Large bureaucracies tend to become remote from those they serve and unwieldy. Unduly centralised governments promote standardised solutions to the problems perceived by bureaucrats and political parties which are remote from the locations and populations where these problems occur. Sheer convenience of administration can become an overriding determinant of policy.

Although we pride ourselves upon our independent layer of municipal government, central government retains enormous powers of direction and discretion over local action. Key areas of public service such as the health and water services are not subject to any form of democratic control. Our largest local authority serves more than a million people and the parish council system survives in England only in the rural areas. The ways of working of governments are alien to many ordinary people, and governments for their part find it difficult to open their doors to public influence. The citizen is generally cast in the role of consumer, recipient of services, and, more crudely, voting fodder. In the inner city, families who are totally dependent on the state for shelter, income, and basic services, may thus have no say at all in their future except an occasional ballot paper. The choice is between resignation and disruption, neither of which offers a fulfilling role in community life.

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We will Remember...

We regret to announce the death of the following members:

October:

Marie K Hart (South Dorset District)

January:

Charles L Clarke (Stockport District)

February:

Rev Sidney Barker (Saltburn)

March:

Anne Jackson (Edmonton)

Frank King (Deal & Walmer)

Vic G Selby (Newport-Gwent)

Doris E Smith (Pocklington Court)

Hilda M Thorne (Cosby)

April:

Anne Bending (St Thomas, Exeter)

Alfred W Bowles (Sittingbourne)

Arthur Ford (Rhyl North)

John Hesketh (Chirk)

Cecil J Hill (Oswestry)

Grace Holton (Broadstairs)

Cyril J Leeding (Rushden)

W L 'Dick' Perkins (Wellingborough)

Dora M Phillipson (Oswestry)

Mary Plymsol (Torquay)

May:

William F Cooper (Leatherhead)

Doris I Helyer (Milford-on-Sea)

Alan J Pratt (Deal & Walmer)

Thomas J Twinberrow (Newton Abbot)

May P Vellam (Spalding)

Iain Fraser writes:

Mayne Elson returned from South America in 1935 to join the whole time staff, having served his apprenticeship in the Rio de Janeiro Branch. His first assignment was to visit the Far East, notably in Singapore and Hong Kong. On his return he served in many home areas, the Western, the Northern, the South West for a lengthy period and in London. His last job before retiring was as Toc H Commissioner in BAOR; this interest he maintained after retiring by his membership of the Services Committee.

Mayne's leadership was apparently unobtrusive but highly effective. His ability to collect and retain all those details which are often overlooked but vital if an operation was to succeed was exceptional and he knew that in cultivating personal relationships, it was often these details that sparked off the creative opportunities.

Mayne was nourished in all he did by his home life with Margaret and the children; this was the centre, whether camping in wild places or his being sustained when sorely tried by his chronic asthma. With Margaret's help the work was maintained and a forward vision to be realised was never lost.

Everywhere he served there are many people who remember with gratitude his innumerable acts of unobtrusive kindness and help. All, including his former colleagues, will remember him for his steadfastness in difficult situations or under great pressure and for his sense of fun as well as for his wry humour when things went wrong. We salute his passing with gratitude for his friendship over the many years for which he served Toc H.

Walter Baird, the stalwart organiser of the South Shields Toc H Services Club (Westoe Village) from 1940 to 1945, died in Chichester Hospital in April at the age of 71.

Walter exemplified the basis of Toc H service in his professional life for over 30 years in many parts of the world. He was a valuation and rating officer and for many years he gave his professional services without charge to the British Red Cross in the southern part of England. All his service sprang from his initial training and enthusiasm as a Toc H member at South Shields.

DCA

John Hesketh (Chirk, N Wales, Men's Branch) died just before Easter. John had been a registered member without a break from 1931 and Toc H was the major interest in his life. He had served as a Central Councillor and as District Pilot and was an active member of the N Wales Area Executive. I recall his thoughtful contributions over the years to the Bangor Summer School, his great courtesy and his happy, warm friendliness. He was widely known and loved in the Offa's Dyke District and throughout N Wales and an old friend, writing to tell us of his death described him as 'one of Nature's gentlemen'.

Alan J Pratt died peacefully in hospital on 9 May, at the age of 57, following a heart attack. Alan joined Yeovil Branch in 1954 and Deal and Walmer Branch in 1957. He has served as a Central Councillor and as Kent Area Chairman and at the time of his death was Secretary of Deal and Walmer Joint Branch. For a time, he served, with his wife Marjorie as acting warden of the Old House. Alan was a former President of the Herne Bay Chamber of Commerce. He was a reader for the Deal Friends of the Blind's talking newspaper and served for many years as secretary of the Friends of Deal Hospital. He will be greatly missed throughout the SE Region.

CJB

Rev Sidney Barker, Saltburn (Cleveland) Joint Branch Padre died in February at the age of 88. He had been a registered Toc H member since 1956, the year following his appointment as Vicar of Saltburn. Norman Robinson writes to tell us of the large gap Sidney Barker's death has left in the branch. 'He was old in years but young in heart and was with us as a branch all the way . . . He endeavoured to keep us in the spiritual way . . . ' The whole of Sidney Barker's ministry over many years was devoted to his people and to God. As was said at his requiem service in the words of the Cure d'Ars, 'an old worn out cassock goes with a glorious chasuble'. We offer our deep sympathy to Saltburn Branch and to Sidney Barker's family on their great loss.

We give thanks for their lives

Please Note

World Chain of Light 1979

In 1978, Western Approaches District, Yiewsley and West Drayton Branch and Harrow Branch Padre Dr Gerald Ferroussat mounted their World Chain of Light in St George's Chapel, London Airport. It struck some of us that this would be a fine, imaginative choice for the starting point of the 1979 World Chain of Light and Vigil. St George's Chapel is right in the centre of this major world airport, is non-denominational and designed primarily for the use of Heathrow staff and passengers. Branch, District and Padre have all agreed and we look forward to further news of this exciting plan.

Diaries

We expect to have the 1980 diaries for sale from early September 1979. They are in the same pattern as the current diaries and the covers will be in dark green with the Toc H symbol in gold. We regret that the price has increased once again and we must include some of that increase in our selling price which will be:

With ballpoint	70p - post free
Without ballpoint	65p - post free



'John Fixed It.' When John Burgess of the SE Regional staff heard that schoolgirl Alison Willis was writing about the life of Jimmy Savile as an 'O' level project, he decided to do something about it. As a result of his action, Alison, armed with her tape recorder, met Jimmy at Broadcasting House. 'I was nervous at first,' she said, 'but Jimmy soon put me at my ease. He was very helpful and amusing and I was really thrilled to meet him'.

Appointment of General Secretary

Applications are invited from men or women members for the post of General Secretary of Toc H, following the appointment of Gilbert Francis as Toc H Commissioner in BAOR.

The General Secretary is one of the four Principal Officers of the Movement and a member of the Headquarters Management Team. He works from Toc H Headquarters in Wendover.

The General Secretary has responsibility for all personnel matters. This is a major and important part of his work and demands a willingness to travel great distances, often at short notice.

The General Secretary acts as Secretary to the Central Council and the Central Executive.

The General Secretary acts as the link in personnel matters between Headquarters and the Toc H Commissioner in Germany.

The new General Secretary will be expected to work alongside Gilbert Francis from about 1 April 1980 and to take over full responsibility from about 1 July.

The closing date for applications is 31 August 1979. Applications should be sent to The General Secretary, Toc H, 1 Forest Close, Wendover, Aylesbury, Bucks HP22 6BT.



Photos: Tony Reade

All right, all right! We know now — see 'Open Forum' is this issue — that Hull is not Humberside! But they're in the news again. When the Toc H Action Group mounted their recent conservation project on the North Yorkshire Moors Railway, one of the volunteers was Tony Reade, Chairman of Toc H Australia!

(He's the big, hairy one). Incidentally, shortly after the project, the Action Group joined with the former Hull Central Men's Branch to form Hull Beacon Branch and they have very healthy plans formulated for the rest of 1979.



Photo: Mail, Hartlepool

Toc H says 'Thank you'. Members and friends of Owton Manor (Hartlepool) Women's Branch met at the General Hospital recently when Branch and District Chairman Jennie Atkinson presented a special bed in memory of Mrs Jean Swanson — a devoted worker for Toc H in the town's hospitals. Members felt that this was a practical way to show thanks for Jean's friendship and service and the branch padre dedicated the gift

in the hope that God's blessing would rest on the patients who used it and upon the hospital staff in their work. A start has already been made to raise funds for another bed in memory of Mrs Thora Welsh who, despite crippling arthritis, was an inspiration to Toc H members in the area. In both instances donations have been given instead of funeral flowers, a practical thanksgiving for service and fellowship.

Open Forum

BALANCE OF POWER

I must confess that until I read the letter from Eddie Crouch in the May issue of *Point Three*, the full purpose of your March editorial had not dawned upon me. This is surely the old trick used by editors, as evidenced during the recent General Election campaign, to assemble a collection of statements, half truths etc and slant them in such a way to suit the mood of the day.

Any strike is bound to affect society but surely this doesn't mean that civil strife will ensue and the most urgent need is for society to examine its own conscience so that the root cause of strikes can be eliminated. If we are only prepared to pay nurses, dustmen and the other public servants the minimum wage then we must suffer the consequences. Nevertheless to talk of civil war is stretching things a bit too far and it is as well to recall President Roosevelt's words in his first inaugural address in 1933 — 'the only thing we have to fear is fear itself'.

There is no doubt, as Mr Crouch says, that the Common Market is one of the more important issues which we should be debating, and this ought to have played a more dominant role in the election than it did. In my opinion the Common Market is the biggest confidence trick ever pulled on the British public and but for North Sea oil our economy would now be in a more sorrowful state than at present. The Common Agricultural Policy is an absolute disaster and unless we can do something about this our inflation will always be affected. There is certainly more danger from this to our society than a few strikes.

In conclusion I would say that we should all cherish what is loosely called 'the British Way of Life'. We may have to suffer lunatic fringe political parties, but at least nobody is tried at midnight and shot at dawn! We must never forget the dictum 'democracy is a bad form of government, but it is infinitely better than all others'.

J R Morgan
Ruislip

Thank you for your most excellent and timely editorial in the March issue of *Point Three*: Let us hope that the 'thinking few' will not just approve, but will ram home the truth about our modern society in their branches, and wherever they are in their daily contacts, and not hide as so often they do, behind the catch phrase that 'Toc H does not discuss politics'.

In essence, politics is the science

of government, and, economics the science of human relationships. If it is true that Toc H cares about people as persons, it follows that we must be concerned with both. It would appear that you think upon these lines, and of course Toc H members should be with you, while not of necessity thinking in the narrow terms of party politics. Some of us realised this way back in 1918 and were severely frowned upon by our fellow 'Toc H blokes', who seemed to think that the 'ambulance work' they were doing so very well was enough, and that the function of Toc H ended there.

As a young man I knew men like Charles Gore, William Temple, Dick Sheppard, George Lansbury, 'Woodbine Willie', Fenner Brockway, Donald Soper, Dr Orchard, Maude Roydon, Fr Vincent MacNabb — in fact most of the progressive thinkers of that period. They had the solution to the class war, and so has Toc H. It is in essence quite simple, but desperately hard to put into practice. Most of our efforts in the past to bring about a better society through the welfare state have only proved that 'man does not live by bread alone' for today the pressure of materialism has made it more and more difficult to lead men into the true society of personal friendship and service.

Your last two paragraphs need to be proclaimed from the housetops, and need to be understood by all if we are to avoid the real war which is coming, ie the victory of materialism which is the goal of extremists, both Left and Right, and will lead to our domination by a ruthless few.

Oliver F C Findlow
Cromer, Norfolk

DAVID ENNALS

In the June *Point Three*, another letter appears, disapproving of David Ennals' apparent clenched fist salute on the cover of the January issue.

Any Central Councillor will be able to assure readers that Mr Ennals did no such thing but as the photographer who took the picture, let me clarify the matter once and for all.

In response to a Councillor's statement that his branch had once been derided as 'do-gooders', Mr Ennals replied: 'I think it's time that all do-gooders stood up and said "What the hell's wrong with being a do-gooder?"... it's become a term of abuse and we shouldn't let them attack us in this way... what does one come into Toc H for, but to do good?... so I say, do-gooders of the world unite'.

At one point of this comment, Mr Ennals stood up and made a gesture to reinforce his point. I was unable to get a shot of this, so at the end of the session, I spoke to Mr Ennals, reminded him of the incident and asked him to repeat the gesture. This he readily did. It is therefore an accurate representation of an event at Central Council and in no way is a political gesture.

Scott Shaw
Toc H Wendover

POINT THREE

I have just received my May *Point Three* and refer to your editorial. I read it with some misgiving as it did not seem to accord with the 'four fold commitment' in many respects.

However, the 'always' in the last line is inexcusable — 'frequently' perhaps but 'always' means 'with no exception' and I do not see how anyone has sufficient knowledge to justify this. Perhaps this is a slip of the pen but as it stands it seems to put you in the same class as those you criticise.

Phil Prior
Witney, Oxon

WHERE IS HUMBERSIDE?

I have just read the excellent article 'What's happening in Humberside' (May *Point Three*). Unfortunately, it rather gives the impression that Hull is Humberside. May I point out that Hull is only part of Humberside? I know there are other branches on the north bank of the Humber and there are a good few on the south bank — Scunthorpe, Barton-upon-Humber and Brigg as well as my own branch Barrow-on-Humber. All these branches do good work — for instance Barrow have just held a jumble sale raising £200 which will be used to give pensioners of the village a tea and mystery coach trip. I hope you will correct this popular mistake that Hull is Humberside.

Ron Potts
Barrow-on-Humberside

TOC H INDIA

We were fortunate to follow recently in some of the steps of 'Mr Ken' and 'Mr Don' during their visit to India and would like to add a comment to their findings (*Point Three*, December). Like those illustrious visitors, we were very impressed with the Toc H effort which deserves recognition and publicity. However, it was also apparent that many

Opinions expressed in these columns (including any editorial comment) are those of the contributor and not necessarily those of the Toc H Movement. We reserve the right to edit letters. Only letters carrying the correspondent's full name and address will be considered for publication.

members in India are intensely interested in the wider Movement and would welcome the opportunity of a direct link with members or groups elsewhere. The financial help already promised from the Diamond Jubilee Appeal could perhaps be followed up by support on a more personal and wider basis through the sharing of problems and views. It was interesting to see from a letter in the November *Point Three* that the West Worthing Branch have been sending copies of that publication to the Trivandrum Branch — a useful starting point!

Thelma and Michael Cheney
Crowborough

CHILE

Lucilla (Trudgett) Recart must realise that many people here find repellent her extolling of a dictatorial regime, (December and April *Point Three*). My last letter (February *Point Three*) was an effort to apply the Toc H principle of 'fair thinking'. It might be helpful if Lucilla Recart tried to do the same, for it is quite possible that neither of us is completely right, and that we may both learn a good deal from our correspondence.

The fact that I guessed that her praise of the present regime was conditioned by her loss of land through the previous regime should at least give her pause. I should hate to lose property myself and I might, in Lucilla Trudgett's position, act and think like her. That would not mean that I would necessarily be right. If I had been a money changer in the Temple, I would think myself a perfectly respectable trader and I would, in all sincerity, have reported that Christ was a law breaker, a trouble maker and a terrorist. The point is that the 'victim' — innocent or guilty — of an action is not the best and most impartial judge of that action.

Your Chilean correspondent is right in saying that I do not live in Chile, and that she does. We do rely on newspaper and other reports, here. There have been many reports about Chile under the present regime, but I cannot remember one that was favourable. Lucilla Recart is suggesting that the British Press, therefore, is corrupt and subject to powers that dictate a party line. If she is saying this, she should give examples of this kind of reporting and show us exactly where these reports are wrong. We are entitled to ask for chapter and verse.

I do not think she would give this: I think she would defend repressive

action in Chile by saying that the action was against 'terrorists': as though such repression and torture can be condoned by saying that it is 'only' aimed at those with whom we do not agree.

The question raised by Lucilla (Trudgett) Recart's letters should be of living interest to Toc H. Yet, in the April edition of *Point Three*, there seems to be much more interest in obscene 'phone calls, drink, and that everlasting subject — 'advertising Toc H'. Are Lucilla Recart and myself the only readers of *Point Three* to write about the questions raised by Chile? Is it that Toc H — born out of the most desperate danger — has gradually collapsed into benign caution? It might be rather difficult to join in the correspondence about Chile without running the risk of being labelled either 'Fascist' or 'Communist' — that would be uncomfortable, wouldn't it?

The last thing I want to be is rude to Lucilla Recart, but the issue is too important to be anything but direct. Many of us who protest against actions in Chile have protested just as strongly at repression and torture in Russia, in America, Britain, Africa or anywhere in the world.

Lucilla Recart should tell us whether she believes in a democratic system at all or whether she believes in democracy in some special sense. We are entitled to ask this, for her answer would help to define the difference between us.

Oliver Wilkinson
Oxford

PEN FRIENDS

I would like to let all readers of *Point Three* know that the Nailsea branch are in the process of forming a Toc H Pen Friendship Club. I therefore ask all those who would like to correspond with others in order to share their interest or just to contact someone, to let me know.

There are many people in your area who may also wish to contact someone.

If you know of anyone or want to correspond yourself, please write to me and I will send you an application form(s). My address is 16 The Grove, Wraxall, Bristol BS19 1LW.

This is a new venture and until we get a list made up you may have to wait a while.

However, it is now up to you to give me your support and I am sure it will be a big success.

Francis B Smith
Bristol

MAYNE ELSON

It was with a deep sense of loss that I heard of the death of Mayne in March and regret that I was not able to attend the Memorial Service. However, I would like to add my humble but very sincere tribute to his memory. I met Mayne when I was Assistant Warden along with Captain Frank Hill at the Services Club in Union Street, Plymouth during the war. Since then I have been in contact with Mayne and his wife once or twice each year by letter, but it is approximately ten years since I last saw Mayne at Trinity Square. I have been a member of Toc H since 1929 and was the Chairman of Salford Joint Branch when it unfortunately had to be closed two years ago, so you will see that I am no chicken and have in my time had personal contact with Tubby Clayton, Gilbert Williams, Herbert Leggate, Pat Leonard, Rev Sawbridge and many more. I hope that I have been a better Christian for having had personal contact with them. I would add to this list Mayne Elson — a man of charm and sincerity. The world is a better place for me for having known him and, along with Margaret and his family, I mourn his loss.

Raymond Hill
Manchester

Note: See the Obituary Column for a fuller account of Mayne's life and work.
Editor

BORDON LETTER

Alice Welford's Bordon Letter made me remember a quotation from the writings of Henry Scott-Holland (1847-1918), Canon of St Paul's. I believe that it was used at Reginald Maudling's memorial service. Here it is:

'Death is nothing at all. I have only slipped away into the next room. I am I and you are you. Whatever we were to each other we are that still. Call me by my old familiar name, speak to me in the easy way you always used. Put no difference into your tone, wear no forced air of solemnity or sorrow. What is death but a negligible accident? Why should I be out of mind because I am out of sight? I am waiting for you, for an interval, somewhere very near, just around the corner. All is well.'

Betty Martin
Poole, Dorset

'I am not young enough to know everything.'

J M Barrie

Group Personal Accident Insurance

The note about this in February's 'Point Three' brought comments from fewer than 50 branches — a disappointing response. However, opinion is clearly in favour of doubling the benefits and the policy has been amended accordingly. Benefits are now as follows:

	For Adults (No age limit)	For Juveniles (under 16 years)
Death	£2,000	£ 500
Loss of one or two eyes	£2,000	£2,000
Loss of one or two limbs		
Permanent total disablement		
Temporary total disablement	£20 per week payable up to 104 weeks. This is payable if employed, unemployed or retired.	

Some branches have not yet paid their premiums for 1979 and are asked to do so without delay at the rate of 20p per head. Those who have already paid at the old rate should now send a further 10p per head. A leaflet is available from Headquarters on request giving fuller information about this policy and also about the Public Liability Policy.

The Joys of 'Projecting' (?)

by Dick Stayman

A painting and decorating weekend at the Colsterdale Centre. Nothing exciting about that, you might say — just a steady job of slapping on paint and wallpaper — but for the volunteers on this project there was an endurance test as well.

The blizzard started early on Friday. I left Harrogate soon after lunch but had to abandon my car two miles short of the Centre and was collected by Stan, the Warden, in his Land Rover.

Dave and Pat left Sheffield at 5.30 pm en route for Huddersfield to collect Alice who was bringing the food, and then to Leeds to pick up Susan. In rapidly worsening conditions they managed to get within five miles by 10.30 pm and phoned for help. By this time, drifting snow had made the road up the dale virtually impassable for ordinary vehicles but Stan and his Land Rover performed miracles and got them safely up, but only just, a little after midnight. They *had* to be rescued — they had the food!

Earlier in the day Chris and Julie from Hull had phoned to say they would arrive at Thirsk station, 20 miles away, at 10 pm and could they be collected? In the event this proved impossible — even their train got stuck in the drift — and they had to stay in Thirsk overnight but a former Toc H member, whom they met quite by chance, put them up! By Saturday morning Colsterdale was well and truly isolated and the snowplough was fighting a losing battle, so Chris and Julie hitch-hiked to within four miles and foot slogged the rest. They bore no 'banner with a strange device' but two large cans of Theakston's 'Old Peculiar' ale — St Bernards up-to-date!

The blizzard continued to rage all day Saturday, creating huge but beautifully shaped drifts around the house, and by Sunday morning it was obvious there would be no leaving that day — the snowplough was still making little headway. Later, however, the snow eased off and by Monday morning a way was at last opened up so the whole party piled into the Land Rover, gingerly descended the dale through deep snow cuttings, retrieved the abandoned cars and made a belated return home.

The painting and decorating? Oh yes, that was done! In fact owing to the extended stay probably more was done than had been planned. It's an ill wind . . .!



Weston-Super-Mare (Avon) Joint Branch giving their 30th annual party for the blind. Is this a record?



New Addington (Surrey) Joint Branch has been peeping behind the 'bamboo curtain'. Peter Thiele, a member of the Anglo-Chinese Friendship Society, who

has just returned from a 5,000 mile journey round China, gave an illustrated account of his tour at a recent open branch meeting.

The Wider Family

South Africa



1979 is South Africa's 'Year of Health'. In several areas, Toc H is working this year to promote awareness of the nutritional (and cost!) benefits of home grown vegetables.

We have received news from Umtata – Kokstad Branch – in the Transkei Area. National Chairman Bill Spencer and Hon Administrator Alec Bullivant recently inducted 12 new members there. On this memorable occasion, some 60 people attended the guest night in Umtata. The picture shows the new Toc H Emblem (painted by Mbuyi Madolo) at the entrance to the Kokstad Garden. From L to R in the picture are Mbuyi Madolo (Kokstad Group Secretary), Lionel Nyonbolo (Assistant Secretary, Umtata) and Lungi Ndamndum (Kokstad Chairman).

Rhodesia

We are delighted to receive the following 'newsy' letter from Robb Mascetti, Secretary of Salisbury (Rhodesia) Men's Branch: '... I thought I'd let you know about the Easter Bonnet tea party this branch organised for some of our 'oldie' friends. I've also enclosed a snap, but as it is in black/white it doesn't do justice to the glorious confections of Easter bonnets that arrived. Although about 30 guests sat down to tea, only a dozen wore their bonnets, but they were all so beautifully decorated and made up, it was the hardest job for the guest of honour to choose the best three; in the end she had to make it the best four!

'We were most fortunate in our weather and so the tea party was held outside in the lovely garden of the Toc H Centre. The length some of the guests had

gone to in producing their Easter bonnets was amazing – there were hats like birds' nests, complete with baby chicks and tiny eggs; others sported saucy rabbits; one was based on a table mat and had an English daffodil arrangement standing up on it (though here of course we are in autumn and not spring!); and of course there were real 'bonnet' types, one very pretty and dainty in lavender coloured decorations...



'Our branch now has a new padre – the Rev Quentin Smith, himself a Toc H-er with one of the Bulawayo Branches before his posting to Salisbury. We had him to meet the members, and we to meet him, at our branch meeting last evening...

Australia

We're always pleased to hear of direct contact between members of the Wider Family so it was good to get a letter from Amy Gibbons of Fareham, Hants who has recently spent three months in Australia. Amy says:

'... Before going our secretary got in touch with Australian Toc H friends and even before I arrived my son had a phone call from Miss Eardley of Unlay, S Australia so that on my arrival I had a welcome from Toc H. I was not able to attend any meetings because of distance and summer vacation, but Miss Eardley arranged for me to meet her for

lunch at her home, meeting me first in Adelaide where Miss J Nelson from Malvern joined us and we had a grand time together over a delightful meal. I was pleased to find that we share the same *Point Three* and thought it would be nice to let them know through it how much I appreciated meeting them and making another link between the two countries and from our little branch at Fareham, we would like to extend a welcome to any who may come our way in the same spirit as that was extended to me. Let me add how much I enjoyed my visit to Australia and the fellowship of Miss E Eardley and Miss J Nelson of South Australia and trust the contact will be kept fresh as it is good to have friends in all parts of the world.'

'Of course, with the war situation here at present, our numbers are down at the weekly meetings, but still we manage to find enough 'hands' to man the film shows every month at the various institutions. Just before Easter we were at the Jairos Jiri Home for Crippled African Children – it's always a worthwhile 'job' here, and they get so excited when the films show Batman, or cowboys, or cops and robbers – they scream and boo at the 'baddies', and shriek with excitement when the hero comes along, jumping up and down on their bottoms (remember they are all badly deformed). You could turn the sound off and they'd never know! Although other organisations do their bit in helping financially and in other ways, I believe our monthly film show is the only sort of entertainment they have, and they just love it.

'In this "Year of the Child" we are expecting a special speaker later this month to guide us on the best way to help. In the meantime we have decided that one meeting each month shall be an activity evening, something that can be done in the room and be cleared away at the end. So we hit on the idea of making jigsaw puzzles – we have a nice collection of suitable coloured pictures, and backing, and our first activity evening was spent glueing pictures to board, then one chap who had brought his power drill tried his hand at jig-sawing! The result was scarcely of exhibition standard – but we'll do better next time. And then we'll have (hopefully) a pile of jigsaw puzzles to hand out to youngsters later in the year.'

'My best wishes to you all, and especially to those who remember me. I hope you are well.'

A partnership between State and people

One of the much vaunted innovations in the present inner city strategy is the 'partnership'. Partnerships are bodies responsible for spending large amounts of public money and reviewing public policies in relation to selected inner cities. However, they are essentially partnerships between central and local government and various other public agencies. Some have made an effort to consult with the public; many have channelled grants to voluntary organisations; but essentially they represent a monolithic state acting not with but for the people.

To generate new solutions to our old inner city problems we need to transform the relationship between the state and the people, to create a new partnership between the two rather than a partnership between different branches of the state from which the people stand removed. As long as the role of the

people is tightly constrained, the only pressure upon governments to renew their commitment to helping the inner city will be when tempers get hot and the people take to the streets. As long as services are provided by large state bureaucracies they will tend to be standardised, unimaginative, unco-ordinated and expensive. As long as people are required to live by taking what they are given as quietly as possible, they will be divided and alienated because they have no stake in a better future for themselves.

The Welfare State represents one of the most important progressive social developments of the century, but no solution to social and economic problems stands good for ever. It clearly cannot effect a solution to the problems of urban decline in the 1970s. Its very structure now inhibits the development of strategies which could tackle these problems effectively. The need now is to preserve the fundamental rights of social

and economic citizenship which the Welfare State has guaranteed, while enfranchising the people further with respect to the government of basic community services. To achieve such changes, existing democratic structures need revitalisation, democratic and participatory government needs to be extended to many new fields of life, and new structures need to be developed to take over the provision of basic services at community level. A model for such new structures might be found in the co-operatives which have been developed in the housing field (see *Housing Co-ops: A new Approach* by Chris Holmes in *Point Three*, December 1978) and tentatively begun in other fields such as employment and transport (why not also in education, health, and other services?). Such developments need to be set free from red tape and funded on a realistic level by a state that is concerned with basic guidelines and regulations rather than the detailed control of everything that is done.

To reverse the current trend of domination by a monolithic and mediocre state requires enormous counter pressures. Governments, and those with power, do not resign their positions easily: nor are citizens, whose ambitions have for years been trimmed to fit small opportunities, prepared for self government and self determination. Given the divided and alienated state of many communities and the cruel calculations of private enterprise, it is easy to turn again to the further extension of state activity as the only solution to social and economic problems. Yet by itself, the state cannot deliver the goods. If the inner parts of our great cities are not to fall into total decay, we must make better use of Britain's most precious and most despised asset — its people.



Photo: Catherine Lamb

Small Ads

Small advertisements must be received (with remittance) five weeks before publication day, which is the 23rd of the preceding month. The charge is 3p a word (minimum 30p) to *Point Three Magazine*. Rates of display advertisements can be obtained from the Editorial Office, Toc H, 1 Forest Close, Wendover, Telephone: 0296 623911.



Quiet situation. Parking. English spoken. Strongly recommended. Bed and breakfast only. Mr Jules Lietaert, Hotel Jacobs, Baliestraat 1, Bruges, 8000. Telephone: (050) 398 31/32.

Christian friendship/marriage introductions. All ages. Nationwide. Also single holidays. Weekend house parties. C F Fellowship, Dept/B23, Edenthorpe, Doncaster. (SAE).

Raise funds quickly, easily. Superb ball-pens, combs, key fobs, diaries, etc gold stamped to your requirements. Details: North Novelties, Bradford BD1 3HE.

Bruges, Belgium. Hotel Jacobs (established 50 years) welcomes Toc H parties and individual visitors to this lovely old city within easy reach of other famous cities of art, and of the coast. Comfortable, modernised hotel.

Weymouth — Bed, breakfast and evening meal: family run guest house, 400 yards seafront. Free car park, residential licence. Coach parties welcome. Terms from £30 per week. Open all year including Christmas. Mrs Cole, Kirtleton House, 21 Kirtleton Avenue, Weymouth. Tel: Weymouth (0305) 785296.

Travelling to the Channel Islands? Why not leave your car with us? Open or covered accommodation. Free transport to and from Weymouth Quay. For further details please write enclosing sae to: Redlands Channel Island Car Park (Proprietor E W Westmacott) 369 Dorchester Road, Weymouth, Dorset. Tel: Upwey (030 581) 2841.

Accommodation. Member's 19 year old daughter requires accommodation in London area, from July, preferably with Toc H members. Please contact: Nicola Wood, 17 Whitefields Crescent, Solihull, West Midlands.